



EASA Newsletter 63

October 2014



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1. Letter from the President

Dear EASA member

Even though EASA's 13th [biennial conference in Tallinn, Estonia](#), is already some months behind us, the commentaries on social media platforms continued for weeks on end. Overall, the participants (over 1130 people) seemed pleased with their conference experience. Our innovative experiments, such as the [Laboratories](#) and the new format of the [Young Scholars Forum](#), were evaluated positively. Some of the plenaries and panels provoked intense scholarly discussion, both on site and online. Those who could not be present physically were able to follow some conference highlights through livestreaming. They could also read the constant newsfeed on [Twitter](#) and appreciate the many pictures that were taken (see [here](#) and [here](#)). The video recordings of the plenaries are now available [online](#). Let me use this opportunity, once again, to thank everybody who worked so hard to turn EASA2014 into a memorable event.

The Members Forum in Tallinn was well attended

too. As expected, the changes to our governing document ('the Constitution') provoked a lively exchange of ideas. In this newsletter, we present you the follow up to this. The final decision will be made through electronic voting later on this year. Apart from reporting on the association's business, the executive committee was happy to present the new co-editors of EASA's flagship journal, [Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale](#), namely [Sarah Green](#) (University of Helsinki) and [Patrick Laviolette](#) (Tallinn University). Another eagerly awaited news was the announcement of the venue for the next biennial meeting. EASA2016 will be held at the [University of Milano-Bicocca](#) in Italy (most likely from 21 until 24 July).

Just before EASA2014, we co-signed a [letter of support](#) for [Alexander Sodiqov](#), a PhD student from the University of Toronto who was detained in Tajikistan while conducting fieldwork. Thanks to the international pressure, Alexander was released from custody and has been able to return to Canada to resume his studies. He remains under investigation and unable to safely return to Tajikistan. In response to this case, a [website](#) is being developed that will gather information about changing fieldwork conditions in particular places. Via the [Initiative for Science in Europe](#), EASA is trying to have anthropology better represented on the scientific committees of [Science Europe](#), the umbrella organisation of national research funders and some major research institutions. And through EASH, the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities, we are setting up an appointment with the new European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science in order to voice our concern over the role of the social sciences and humanities in [Horizon 2020](#).

The dialogue with other anthropological associations seems to be intensifying. At a meeting of representatives of anthropological associations in Tallinn, there was a consensus that more exchange of information and open dialogue are an absolute necessity in order to make anthropology stronger within but also beyond regions, nation-states and continents. As a follow-up to the [EASA/ABA/AAA/CASCA webinar](#) in 2013, the [Canadian Anthropology](#)

[Society](#) (CASCA) invited us to continue the reflection about the importance of plurilingual approaches to the advancement and sharing of anthropological knowledge at their 2015 conference in Quebec. In my capacity as international delegate, I represented EASA at the biennial meeting of the [World Council of Anthropological Associations](#) (WCAA) in Taipei, Taiwan. This was an important gathering because one of the items on the discussion table was the increased collaboration between WCAA and the [International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences](#) (IUAES). Finally, our colleagues of the [International Society for Ethnology and Folklore](#) (SIEF) invited me to attend their [Golden Jubilee Symposium](#).

This is my last letter to you in my capacity as president of the association. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I was given by the membership and the current executive committee to invest time and energy in strengthening EASA. I started my mandate with the intention to work on two long-term goals: (1) strengthening the association's role in representing fairly the wide variety of European social anthropology in the academic, professional and public spheres; and (2) using EASA as a strategic instrument to boost the quality of anthropology across Europe, making the discipline more worthwhile for all members and inspirationally relevant to the serious socio-economic and environmental challenges the world is facing. While progress has been made on both fronts, I sincerely hope that the next executive committee will continue developing EASA along these same lines. I hereby warmly invite each ordinary EASA member to seriously consider becoming a candidate for the upcoming elections. EASA needs people like you!

Noel B. Salazar,
your president

2. Letter from the Book Series Editor

Eeva Berglund

The EASA book series showcases work by Association members, both in monographs and edited collections. The latest publication in the series is Florin Mühlfried's monograph,

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Being a State and States of Being in Highland Georgia, which was published in May 2014. [www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=MuehlfriedBeing] Proposals for new books can be submitted for volumes concerned with any worthwhile issue of anthropological concern.

The EASA series is published by Berghahn books, a highly respected name in scholarly publishing. Prospective authors should, however, first contact me since I have been appointed by the EASA to oversee this series. Find out more at www.easaonline.org/bookseri.shtml. If you are thinking of publishing your work, that is where you will find instructions on how to prepare and submit a proposal to the series. However, I'm happy to answer questions and make suggestions in person via email as well. Don't hesitate to contact me on [eeva.berglund\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:eeva.berglund(at)helsinki.fi).

If you are going to the AAA in Washington DC in December, you could also come and talk in person. Bearing in mind the scale of operations there, an email in advance will no doubt be helpful in pinning down a place and a time to actually meet.

Publishing is always a collective affair. Grateful thanks to the following people for their help with the series:

Andrés Barrera Gonzalez, Laura Bear, Mette Berg, Åsa Boholm, Glenn Bowman, Elena Calvo Gonzalez, Martin Clayton, Chiara Fonio, Anselma Gallinat, Bruce Grant, Nina Gren, Jeff Halper, Chris Hann, Monica Heintz, Peter Hervik, Anna Horolets, Andrew Irving, Gemma John, Paul C. Johnson, Barbara Rose Johnston, Don Kalb, Peter Wynn Kirby, Are Knudsen, Anne Le Huérou, Winnie Lem, Carola Lentz, Claudia Liebelt, Erik de Maaker, Sabina Magliocco, Bill Maurer, Liz McFall, Lotte Meinert, David Mills, Isak Niehaus, Carolyn Nordstrom, Robin Ostow, Deborah Reed-Danahay, Regina Römhild, Minas Samatas, Steven Sampson, Alison Shaw, Valeria Siniscalchi, Emmanouil Spyridakis, Renita Thedvall, Robert Thornton, Gavan Titley, Vera Trappmann, Stéphane Voell, Christina Welch, Pnina Werbner, Amy Whitehead, Rosemary Zumwalt, Nilz Zurawski.

3. Members' Forum Discussion on the Objects of the Association

At the recent meeting of the Members' Forum in Tallinn, the Executive Committee asked members to consider and vote on two special resolutions.

Resolution 1: That the Association adopt as its Articles of Association the draft Articles set out in the document annexed hereto in substitution for its present Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Resolution 2: That the Association adopts as its Objects of the Association:

"The objects of the Association are to promote education and research in social anthropology by improving understanding of world societies and encouraging professional communication and cooperation between anthropologists, especially those working in and on Europe."

Whilst Resolution 1 was carried unanimously, the proposal to vote on the new Objects opened up the floor to a lively discussion over the nature of the association.

Attending to the various issues raised at the meeting as recorded in its minutes, and following a proposal from the floor, the Executive Committee proposes the following amendment:

"The objects of the Association are to promote education and research in social anthropology by improving understanding of world societies and encouraging professional communication and cooperation between anthropologists, especially in Europe."

If the Executive hears no major objections to this wording, and assuming the Charity Commission gives prior consent (which it has to do for changes to the Objects of a charity), it will proceed to ask the membership to vote (electronically) on the new Objects, in January 2015, to coincide with the Association's forthcoming elections.

4. Elections for a New Executive

The term of office of the elected members of the present Executive Committee is coming to an end. We invite applications/nominations from voting members* to stand for election.

The following members of the present Executive Committee must stand down: Jeanette Edwards, Abdullahi El-Tom, Mark Maguire, Susana Narotzky and Noel Salazar.

Candidates must be voting members*, and any candidature has to be nominated and supported by 'voting' members. *Associate and student members are NOT 'voting' members.

Applications must comprise:

- A short personal presentation (max. 150 words);
- A picture of the candidate;
- The name of the nominating member;
- The name of the supporting member.

Members interested in submitting their candidature are invited to email their application to the Secretary, by 5th December.

We will publish the list of candidates in mid-December, and the online vote will take place from 7th-18th January. The results will be announced a week later and the Executive committee handover meeting will take place in mid-March in Milan.

Any interested members who would like to know more about the job or the nomination process are free to contact current executive committee members whose email addresses can be obtained from the [EASA membership directory](#).

5. Announcement of the next EASA biennial conference, EASA2016

We are delighted to announce that the next EASA biennial conference will be organised by and hosted at the Department of Human Science for Education "Riccardo Massa" and Department of Sociology and Social Research at The University of Milano-Bicocca. More information will go up on the website next year.

6. New Editors of Social Anthropology

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of the new editorial team for the Association's journal: Sarah Green (University of Helsinki) and Patrick Laviolette (Tallinn University) are taking over from Mark Maguire and David Berliner. Franz Krause (Tallinn University) and Anni Kajanus (currently at LSE) will take over from Johanna Markkula and Vlad Naumescu as Editorial assistant and Book Reviews editor.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the outgoing team for their fantastic job over the past four years.

7. Anthropology as a Vocation and Occupation

The panel Anthropology as a Vocation and Occupation, convened by Hana Cervinkova and Karolina Follis was held on August 3, 2014 at the 13th Biennial EASA Conference in Tallinn, Estonia. The goals of the panel, as stated in the Conference Programme were as follows: "1. On behalf of EASA, we seek to understand how our members who fall in the early career category view their current career prospects; 2. Drawing on current debates on the future of research and higher education under conditions of austerity, digitalization and casualization of academic labor, we seek to stimulate an exchange that would examine those international concerns from a perspective specific to European anthropology; 3. We hope to learn whether EASA itself has a role to play assisting early career anthropologists as they navigate both the available and the yet-to-be-created (or discovered) opportunities for anthropologists in Europe today." The audience of approximately 20+ fluctuated between the three panel sessions and included several senior anthropologists.

The overall findings are that in the current academic environment early career anthropologists, understood for these purposes as advanced PhD Students, postdocs and junior lecturers are facing a set of external conditions which imperil the pursuit of anthropology as a vocation and an occupation. Of such factors, most frequently mentioned were (a) the

uncertainty and precariousness of employment at institutions of higher learning and research institutes; (b) the pressure to secure research funding in a highly competitive environment as a condition of continuing employment; (c) constraints resulting from the demand that EU and nationally funded research be policy relevant and adhere to non-anthropological norms of knowledge production; (d) lack of preparedness for careers outside of academia. Several participants noted that prevailing definitions of "policy relevance" are difficult to reconcile with the methods and theories of anthropology. At the same time participants brought up their desire to practice "engaged" and "public" anthropology, while noting the ambiguity of these terms.

As a result of the panel, Karolina S. Follis together with Jessica C. Robbins-Ruszkowski and Christian R. Rogler prepared a list of recommendations for the EASA Executive, which include both immediate and long-term suggestions for actions, including: the establishment of a permanent Task Force, organization of a plenary session at the next EASA conference, workshops, preparing lobbying initiatives, issuing a statement of career progression/good practice in academic hiring, etc. For more information about the initiative, please contact Karolina S. Follis (k.follis(at)lancaster.ac.uk) or Hana Cervinkova (hana(at)post.pl).

8. Network news

There are presently 24 EASA Networks. Some are extremely active and provide their membership with a lively scientific environment organizing workshops, panels at international conferences, coordinating publications, and using internet to convene e-seminars and debates. In all likelihood Network activity will expand in the future and will require developing a new governance structure. Some issues were raised by conveners at the EASA collective meeting of Networks, for example, the need to keep track of membership, the convenience of developing formal procedures for electing conveners, the procedural argument for identifying the network official panel at the EASA meetings, etc. These are important questions that will need to be addressed by the future Executive Committee.

Call for funding events

The call opens on September 15th 2014 and proposals are due by October 31st 2014. Decisions by the Executive Committee will be made by December 1st 2014. The activities funded have to be completed before December 31st 2015. All networks need to have submitted the annual report of their activities to be eligible for funding.

<http://www.easaonline.org/networks/funding.shtml>

Recent news from the networks

Anthropology of gender and sexuality

The coordinators are: Anna Fedele, CRIA-Lisbon University Institut, fedele.anna(at)gmail.com; Kim Knibbe, Groningen University kim.knibbe(at)gmail.com

Disaster and Crisis Anthropology Network (DICAN)

The coordinators are: Susann Ullberg, susann.baez.ullberg(at)socant.su.se CRISMART-Swedish National Defence College, Sweden; Kristoffer Albris, kristoffer.albris(at)anthro.ku.dk ; Seumas Bates, seumas.bates(at)gmail.com

European Network for Queer Anthropology (ENQA)

The coordinators: Elisabeth Engebretsen, elengebretsen(at)gmail.com ; Paul Boyce, p.boyce(at)sussex.ac.uk

Medical Anthropology Network

The medical anthropology network had an election process to change its board. The final results of the election are:

Pino Schirripa (Italy), Chair (1st term) 26 votes
Susanne Adahl (Finland), Co-Vice Chair (1st term) 26 votes

Piet van Eeuwijk (Switzerland), Co-Vice Chair (1st term) 22 votes

Gabriele Alex (Germany) Representative for Teaching (2nd term) 26 votes

Rene Gerrets (The Netherlands), Representative

for Intersection and Cross-Disciplinarity (1st term) 27 votes

Claire Beaudevin (France), Liaison officer (1st term) 27 votes

Elizabeth Hsu (UK), Representative for publication of book and thematic issues (1st term) 22 votes

Anita Hardon (The Netherlands), Representative for international relation and outlook on future activities (1st term) 25 votes

Viola Hoerbst (Germany), Representative for medical anthropology and its social applications (1st term) 26 votes

Tanja Ahlin (Slovenia/The Netherlands), IT officer (2nd term) 27 votes

Medical Anthropology Young Scholars Network (MAYS)

A new board of the MAYS was elected at the same time. The new representatives are Natashe Lemos Dekker (The Netherlands) Representative for MAYS (1st term) and Judith Schuehle (Germany) Representative for MAYS (1st term). We wish the new board members a good job.

Anthropology of Law and Rights

Heike Drotbohm has stepped down as coordinator of this network and Gerhard Anders, ganders(at)exseed.ed.ac.uk was nominated as the new network's coordinator during the Tallinn EASA meetings.

Anthropology of mobility (Anthromob)

After the EASA 2014 conference in Tallinn, Jamie Coates stepped down as a convenor and the new convenor group for ANTHROMOB were decided as: Roger Norum, Lauren Wagner and Valerio Simoni.

We have a wider 'committee' of organisers, including Jamie Coates, who will be assisting with various organisational activities, but the convenors should be the first point of contact for the network.

Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia

Publication

1. The third issue of our journal is out now. Special Issue: The Anthropology of Dreams and Dreaming Among Muslim Communities, Volume 2, Issue 1, Summer 2014 (July-August)

2. The fourth issue of our journal will be out by January 2015, Rituals and Local Traditions of Funerary Practices in Islam, Volume 2, Issue 2, Winter 2014 (December-January)

Film and Media Programme

1. The First Ethnographic Film and Media Programme of the EASA Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia was held in Tallinn this year during EASA 2014. The film programme will be circulated and presented in Iran (Cinema Real Iranian Nov. 2014), Austria (Institute for Social Anthropology | Austrian Academy of Sciences) and Brazil (The Middle East Studies Center, Rio).

2. The Second Ethnographic Film and Media Programme will be held in Iran in 2015 during 8th Cinema Real Iranian.

Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology

PACSA was present at EASA2014 with 4 panels that covered issues such as Security, Soldiers, Justice, Violence and Intimacy. We also had a fruitful network meeting in which it was decided that the next PACSA meeting in 2015 will be held in Frankfurt! We will publish more details on this event soon.

Launching new anthro-blog on Peace and Conflict

We are furthermore glad to announce a new partnership between Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology (PACSA) and the anthropology-driven online magazine "[Transformations](http://transformations-blog.com/) - A New Voice on Culture, Politics, and Change." (URL: transformations-blog.com/).

As a first step, we will soon launch an anthropology-based blog on "Peace&Conflict" on Transformations. It will provide a platform

for researchers from within the wider field of peace and conflict studies to share their stories from the field, to intervene through commentary and analyses in current debates, or to share voices of informants directly; and all that in an accessible and creative way, also including photographs or multimedia content.

Transformations created [four distinct writing genres](http://transformations-blog.com/become-author/get-in-touch-with-us/) as a way to bridge anthropology's uniqueness with the requirements of a wider online readership. Among them, The Voice, The Picture, The Fieldnote and The Analysis.

We kindly invite you to submit your ideas and pitches for blog-posts on topics and experiences related to Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology. Either via email to contact [transformations\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:transformations(at)gmail.com) or via the form on the site:

transformations-blog.com/become-author/get-in-touch-with-us/

Transformations on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/engaginganthropology>

On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheFieldnote>

9. Online access to Social Anthropology

Remember, to access the journal online you need to affiliate your membership on Wiley Online Library. Before you can do this you will need to be registered on Wiley Online Library, so if you are not, follow this link: onlinelibrary.wiley.com click on 'Log In/Register' in the top right hand corner and follow the instructions to register. It's a quick and easy process! To affiliate your membership follow this link: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/societies/EASA and enter:

- your registered email address and password
- your membership number
- your access code: YS00001334

then click submit!

Registration and affiliation is a one-time process. Once you have affiliated you will not need to use your Membership Number and Access Code again. In future you can go straight to onlinelibrary.wiley.com and log in.

10. WCAA sister association news, and some other conferences

International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF). SIEF has launched a [Call for Panels](#) for their conference in Zagreb taking place next year from 21-25th June.

Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth. The ASA have announced the [Call for Panels](#) for their 2015 conference in Exeter which will take place from 13-16th April.

5th desigualdades.net Summer School / Coloquio de Verano. The call for applications is now open: <http://www.desigualdades.net/Activities-and-Public-Events/Summer-School/index.html>

La Asociación Latinoamericana de Antropología (ALA) y el Colegio de Etnólogos y Antropólogos Sociales A.C. (CEAS) de México. La asociación y el Colegio convocan al IV Congreso Latinoamericano de Antropología “Las antropologías latinoamericanas frente a un mundo en transición”, a realizarse del 7 al 10 de octubre de 2015 en la Ciudad de México: www.asociacionlatinoamericanadeantropologia.org/docs/Convocatoria_ALA_2015.pdf

Two other conferences being organised by NomadIT which might be of interest:

The Portuguese Centre for Global History (CHAM), ‘Knowledge Transfer and Cultural Exchanges’, Lisbon, 15-18 July 2015, [Call for panels](#).

European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists (EurASEEA), 15th international conference Nanterre, 6-10 July 2015, [Call for panels](#).

11. Featured title from EASA’s publisher, Berghahn books

LANDSCAPES BEYOND LAND. Routes, Aesthetics, Narratives. Edited by Arnar Árnason, Nicolas Ellison, Jo Vergunst and Andrew Whitehouse. Volume 19, EASA Series from Berghahn Books. www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=ArnasonLandscapes

“The main theoretical aim of the book, to move beyond a dichotomy between experience

and structure in the anthropological study of landscape, is important and makes a lot of sense in relation to the existing literature on the topic... [T]his new collection is timely,...exceptionally rich and interesting and clearly demonstrate that anthropological thinking on landscape is alive and well.” Paola Fillipucci, Cambridge University

Land is embedded in a multitude of material and cultural contexts, through which the human experience of landscape emerges. Ethnographers, with their participative methodologies, long-term co-residence, and concern with the quotidian aspects of the places where they work, are well positioned to describe landscapes in this fullest of senses. The contributors explore how landscapes become known primarily through movement and journeying rather than stasis. Working across four continents, they explain how landscapes are constituted and recollected in the stories people tell of their journeys through them, and how, in turn, these stories are embedded in landscaped forms.